

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

DEVICE IN A CABLE TIE

Priority Statement

[0001] This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/SE2004000457 which has an International filing date of March 25, 2004, which designated the United States of America and which claims priority on Swedish Patent Application number 0300979-2 filed April 3, 2003, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Field

[0002] At least one embodiment of the present invention generally relates to a device in a cable tie according to the pre-characterising clause of claim 1.

Background

[0003] This refers to what the invention has in common with the prior art in this field as is disclosed by WO 99/180 05.

[0004] A particular advantage with a cable tie having an open locking head, that is to say a cable tie, the locking head of which has a slit for an insertion part allowing the band to be rapidly inserted into the locking head, is the facility for producing a suspendible loop, which can be opened and which allows bundles of wires, which are to be subsequently tied together, to be easily threaded through the loop. It has emerged, however, that the locking tongue providing with ratchet teeth, which is situated in the locking head and is intended, as the tie is being tightened, to be brought into engagement with ratchet teeth or ribs on the band, can be damaged so that the engagement between the locking tongue and the ribbing is impaired, with the risk that the cable tie will cease to function.

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SUMMARY

[0005] At least one embodiment ~~The object of the invention is to prevent such damage to the locking tongue. According to the invention this is achieved by the features specified in the characterising part of claim 1.~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] Advantageous and example embodiments of ~~t~~he invention will be explained in more detail below with reference to the drawing attached in which:

[0007] -Fig. 1 shows a plan view of a cable tie having a device according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0008] Figs. 2a, 2b, in sections along and through the band respectively, show how the device according to an embodiment of the invention achieves a clearance interval between the insertion part of the cable tie and the locking tongue thereof.

[0009] Fig. 3a shows a detailed view of the device according to an embodiment of the invention in the embodiment shown in Fig. 1; and-

[0010] Fig. 3b is a detailed view of an alternative embodiment of a device according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

[0011] The embodiment of a cable tie according to the present invention shown in Fig. 1 comprises a housing part 1, a band part 2, an insertion part 3 narrower than the band part 2, and an end part 4 serving as grip tab. The band part 2 is in principle of any length, as is the insertion part 3, although the latter should be at least equal in length to the housing 1. The end part 4 is wider than the band part 2 and is provided on at least one side with ridges 5 in order to facilitate gripping of the part when tightening the band around a cable bundle or the like, for example.

[0012] The housing 1 is provided with a through-opening 6, which extends in the longitudinal direction of the housing 1 and transversely to the band parts 2-4. A slot-shaped recess 7 extends through the upper wall of the housing and is of a width designed to match the insertion part 3 and outwardly bevelled edges, which may also be regarded as guide edges for bringing the insertion part 3 down into the through-

opening 6. A locking member in the form of a tongue 8 is arranged in the through-opening 6. The tongue 8 emerges from the bottom of the through-opening 6 and basically extends diagonally towards the opposite end of the opening 6 and towards the slot-shaped recess 7. On the side facing the slot-shaped recess 7 the tongue 8 is provided with a number of ratchet teeth 9, which are intended to interact with corresponding ratchet teeth 10 on the band part 2.

[0013] The fact that the shape of the end part 4 prevents it running through the opening 6 means that an openable loop, which loosely encloses a bundle of cables, for example, can be produced by bringing the insertion part 3 down into the recess 7. Further cables can be inserted through this loop, as required before the cable tie is tightened. After threading the band part 3 into the through-opening 6 on top of the tongue 8 this will be pressed down towards the bottom of the opening 6 by the aforementioned cable tie. It has emerged that there is not always sufficient resilience to ensure engagement between the teeth 9 and 10, with the result that the aforementioned problems arise.

[0014] According to an embodiment of the invention, there are wing-like projections 11, thinner than the grip tab 4 and extending transversely to the insertion part 3 in the area around the connection of the insertion part 3 to the grip tab 4. Towards the grip tab 4 these projections 11 terminate in a ridge 12 serving as a stop, which ridge in forming the band loop as stated above is designed, with the projections 11 inserted into the through-opening 6 of the locking head 1 and bearing against the opposing walls of the opening 6 to abut the locking head 1. The fact that the projections 11 are thinner than the grip tab 4 creates a clearance interval 13 between the insertion part 3 and the locking tongue 8, which ensures that the tongue 8 is always in the position in which its teeth 9 afford effective locking through engagement with the teeth 10 of the band 2. This clearance interval 13 is clearly visible from Fig. 2b.

[0015] In the preferred embodiment shown in Figs. 1 and 3a, the projections 11 and the ridge 12 are incorporated into the grip tab 4. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 3b the grip tab 4 emerges from the ridge 12 and therefore constitutes an independent section.